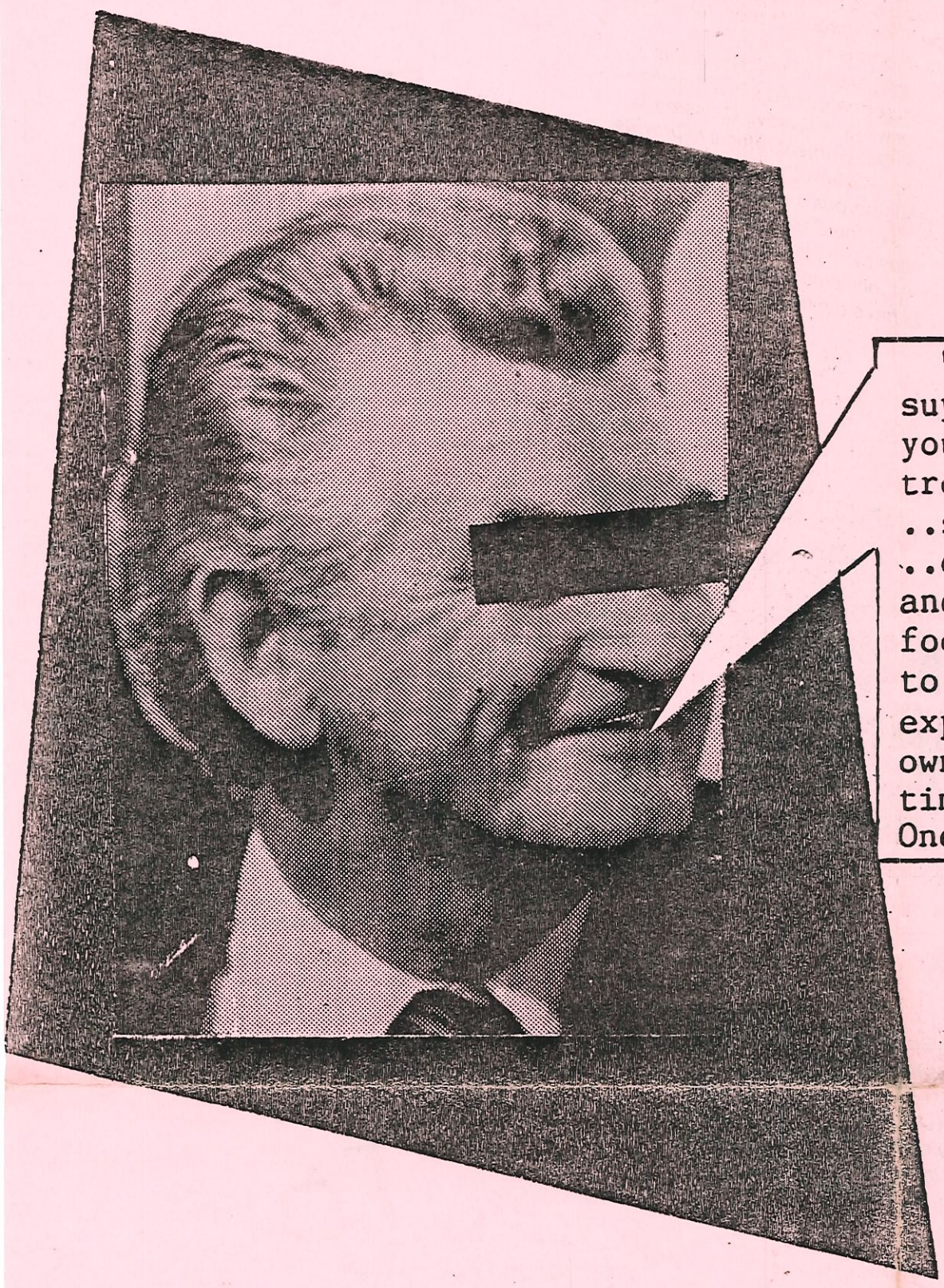
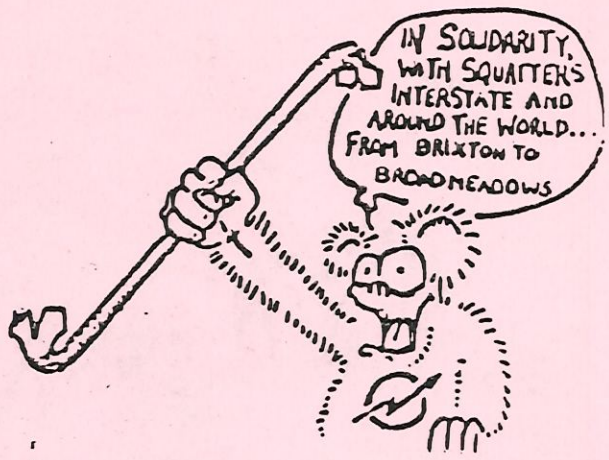
PRINCE'S PIER COMMUNITY CAFE...





"Arr..err..My government would never support this cafe and neither should you...a squatted,unfunded,consumer controled cafe..it's just disgusting.....
..so don't go there every Thurs. from 7pm ..er..don't do your share of the cooking and cleaning..don't eat the vego-vegan food..don't contribute whatever you want to the entertainment..don't donate to cover expenses and definately don't form your own collective to run the cafe at other times..just trust me,the ALP and Priority One..and er..she'll be right Bob..."

CAFE WATZON OCT-NOV'87...

FOR MORE INFO CALL 645 2577

15/10 Aftermath,Arm the Insane[ATI is not definate-call the cafe]
22/10 West Theatre's 'The Quest of Mrs Peerless" and Footage
29/10 Hysteria + Videos
5/11 Trash of all Nations,Videos[inc. 'What Port people think of the Station Pier Redevelopment']
12/11 Mulch,Ultratune
19/11 Videos
26/11 Combined Effort
28/11+29/11 Eviction Festival...details later..if you want to do something for it call the cafe on 645 2577.....

DON'T LET CAFES ROT

SQUAT...

How to get tnere...

Take the 201/203 bus from Flinders St, and get off at stop 24[the one after the Station Pier Bridge.....

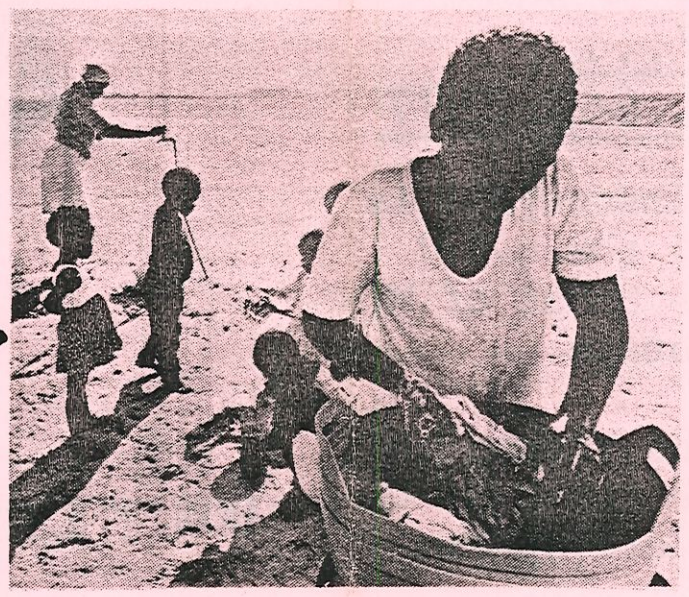
The name 'Crossroads' has become an international symbol of defiance. Crossroads, the sprawling squatter camp just outside Cape Town sprang to prominence in 1979 after government attempts to move it were strongly resisted by its population. In the face of this defiance the government retreated and since then has been trying in all kinds of ways to remove Crossroads residents from the area. Government refusal to provide sufficient housing for the Western Cape African population meant that numerous squatter camps sprang up on the edges of the Cape Flats. Living conditions are bad, raids by the authorities an ever present threat. Despite this, places like Nyanga Bush, KTC and Crossroads have continued to grow.

From Crossroads

The people resident at KTC, like many at Crossroads, are either victims of the serious housing shortage, or else are people who have come to look for work because they cannot survive in the bantustans. Ever since KTC was established on the windy sand dunes surrounding the Cape Flats its residents have been subject to continual harassment. The government has not yet been able to move Crossroads, but it has made clear its refusal to tolerate any other 'squatters'. And so KTC residents have been subjected to continuous early morning raids. This has meant they cannot even build shacks, but have had to build shelters of plastic. These are dismantled every day at dawn and the plastic buried in the sand to be reconstructed at dusk. Despite appalling living conditions, and continual harassment from the authorities, the spirit of the KTC residents is indomitable. They refuse to move.

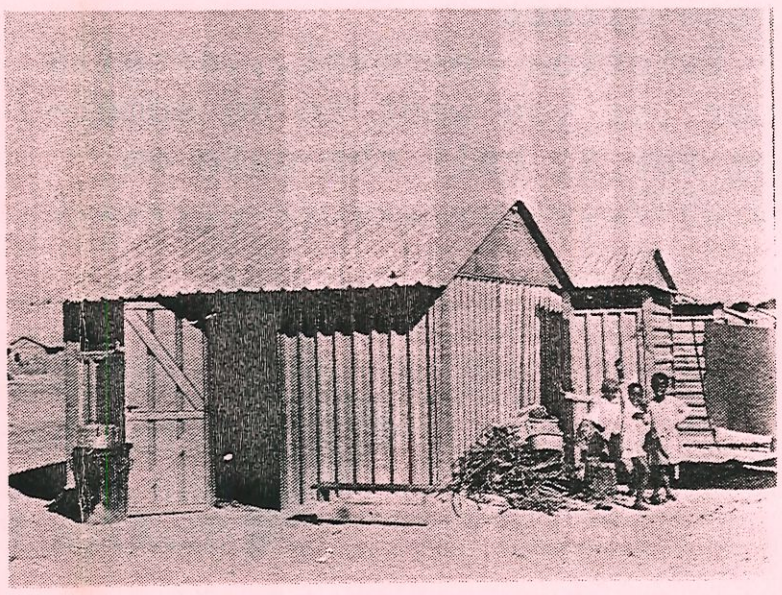
The residents of the Nyanga Bush squatter camp are in exactly the same position as the people of KTC. They too have been hounded to the extent that they are unable to live in permanent structures, and have to take refuge from the icy Cape winter under sheets of plastic. Every time there is a raid they flee into the surrounding bush. But they always return. They have no other option, no other homes.

To Khayelitsha



Khayelitsha is a vast township that is at present being built 35km outside of Cape Town. It is intended to house 300 000 people over a 15 year period. These people are meant to be the present population of the African townships of Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu who are to be moved to Khayelitsha. When announced, this plan aroused mass resistance from the residents of these townships. Despite a chronic housing shortage they had no intention of being resettled en-masse. Khayelitsha is in the middle of the Cape Flats. The houses being provided by the government are very small. There are virtually no facilities at this time, including a severe lack of transport.

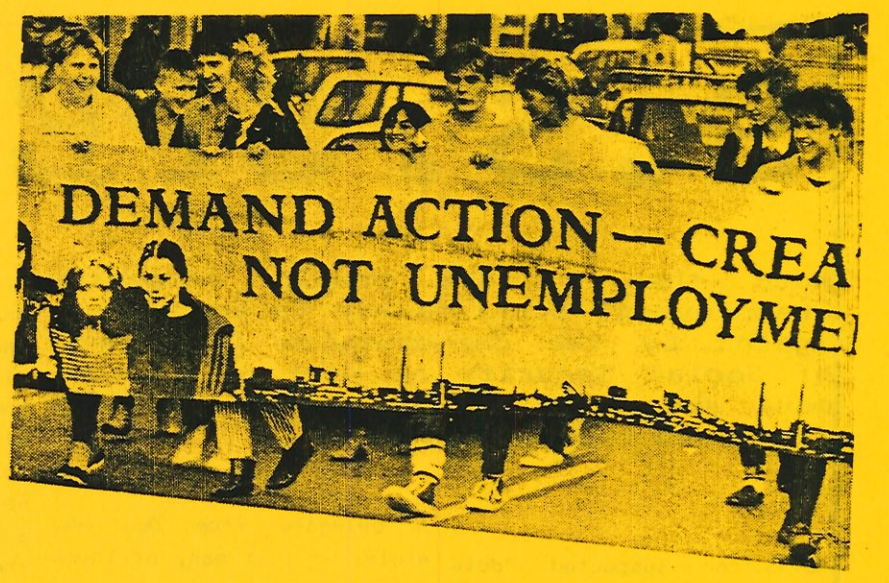
The people who are moving to Khayelitsha are doing so out of sheer desperation for housing. The governemnt has established a site and service scheme at Khayelitsha which is intended for Crossroads residents who have moved. However many people are reluctant to move there because there is no guarantee that after an initial 18 months period they will be allowed to stay. Khayelitsha has been widely condemned as nothing more than a resettlement camp for all of Cape Town's African population.



NUUP Conference

NATIONAL UNION OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

27 & 28 Feb.



As the 80's end,unemployed workers face ever increasing attacks from 'our' Labor government and the prospect of the Neo-Fascist New Right waiting in the wings...

Cutting the under 18 dole,closing CYSS centers,squeezing the funding for community groups and the new hit squads for long term unemployed people are all part of the bosses' scheme to make working people,rather than the rich,pay for the economy's problems...

Unemployed and unwaged workers from around Australia are organizing to defend their rights:the National Union of Unemployed People with member unions around Australia is having a National Conference in Melbourne on Febuary the 27th and 28th.

All unemployed and unwaged workers as well as other interested people are welcome to attend and participate in the conference,workshops,discussions and fun[?!]

OUTLINE

*NB-this outline is tentative-to be approved/amended/changed on Sat. Morning...

*Starts Sat[27th] 10 AM. with reports from member unions and discussion of the conference structure followed by lunch,2 sets of Workshops and a report back session-gig in evening

*Sun[28th]-Starts 11 AM. another round of workshops,Lunch, Report back session,Plennary[only NUUP union delegates eligible to vote]finishing around 6PM.

*Workshops-People are invited to propose W/shops on Sat. Morn.
-current proposals include:DSS information gathering powers, Discussion of different ways to fight unemployment,U18 dolee issues,Squatting and resisting evictions,♀ on the dole,Defending CYSS's and community space,Union links, Aboriginal Solidarity work...and more

Details

*Billets for interstate visitors are being arranged
-Contact the SUV by 21/2 to say you're coming
*Lunch and arvo tea provided both days
*Childcare provided
*Women's,men's and kid's space provided
*Donations accepted...

Venue

*the Community Fire Station-301 St, George's Road Nth.Fitzroy
-take the 9,10,11 or 12 tram from Collins Street/Parliament Station or Brunswick St to the door[stop after a Mercede's dealer]Stop # 28.
-or Take a train to Rushall Station[Epping Line] and walk west along the disused railway land...

THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY THE OUT-OF-WORKERS
BUT I DID NOTHING BECAUSE I'VE GOT A JOB.....

GIG

*-Venue,Bands and cost[free to interstaters] to be confirmed check gig guides for details

?

*FOR MORE INFO CALL OR WRITE TO:
THE SQUATTERS' UNION OF VICTORIA

301 ST GEORGES RD
NORTH FITZROY,3068.
ph.:(03)481-8097.

S.S. SPECIAL SQUADS

From The Gong: Wollongong Out of Workers

More than 100,000 people recieving unemployment benefits are to be investigated by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security as part of Government moves to crack down on welfare fraud and overpayments.

Raids on suspected "dole cheats", dropped as too costly by the Fraser government, have been resurrected in Labor's new campaign to get people off the dole. Government hit squads are presently touring DSS offices, systematically harassing the unemployed.The campaign is designed not to create new jobs but merely to force people off the dole and out of the unemployment statistics.

Known by the department of Social Security as "selective review teams", known to unemployed people as "hit squads".Everyone recieving unemployment benefits for more than two years can expect to be interviewed by them.

YOU'RE THE TARGET

The teams will target eligibility and the amount of benefit, and check entitlement details and personal particulars.Basically whether you are entitled to a benefit, whether you are recieving the correct rate of payment for that benefit, and will delve into personal details to check that you are not doing naughty things like not declaring to the department that you are: living in a de facto relationship, recieving interest from banks building societies or credit unions or claiming third party or damages compensation.

Already some 21,000 Australians have been reviewed by the 19 squads, with 15,281 benefits being terminated as a result.The six person squads operate from social security offices,making visits over three to six months.For people on the dole, the knock the door could come at any moment. Failure to satisfy the squads means loss of benefit.

No other initiative has come close to the success of the hit squads in reducing the number of people that are recieving unemployment benefits.In Dee Why, for example a team managed to cut the number of benefits paid by 52.7 per cent over three months.In Redfern the number dropped by 22 per cent.

A delegate from Dee Why explained that many of those cut off should still be on the dole.They were not cheats but had merely failed the work test,"The interesting thing was that there were no major frauds: no people claiming benefits in several names or things like that."

However the teams have attracted remarkably little publicity.Even DSS workers report difficulties in getting information about how the teams operate.

THE MAN WHO DECLARED HIS EARNINGS AT THE DOLE OFFICE

"The Government just wants to see unemployment figures fall", one social security staff member said."It's hard to get a picture of how these teams are working because nothing is known. There doesn't seem to be any measurement of their activities, or any attempt to pinpoint the causes and effects of how they are gettting people off unemployment benefits."

Another source at an inner city social security office said much of the literature used in the review procedures had not been translated.It was common, she said, for clients to have their benefit terminated when they failed to respond to a letter left by hit squad members, even when they were unable to understand the contents of the letter.Often clients were not told of termination of their benefit: they simply didn't recieve payment when they expected it.

THE INTERVIEW

What actually happens is one or more members of a hit squad will call at your home to interview you about efforts you've been making to find work.If you are not home they will leave a card for you to contact them at the office.The interview is intimidating and insulting.A Questionaire section of the review is divided into 9 sections of questions.We have been told the questions were to confirm that your circumstances are the same as when you registered.Such questions as your mothers maiden name head the list of things that may have changed.Some questions repeat themselves and others are identical to the form you fill in every fortnight.

During the interview, if they are not satisfied with your attempts to find work you will be given a form divided into four "cards". Each must be signed by a potential employer, indicating an unsuccessful bid to find work.Two completed forms must be handed in with the fortnightly unemployment benefit form, and possibly newspaper advertisements that led you to the interviews in the first place.

JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

At the end of the interview is a declaration for you to sign which states that you understand the penalties for not answering any questions.If you don't answer a question you may get cut off or have your benefit suspended.

Unlike hit squads, field officers have been around for a long time.Although hit squads are basically groups of field officers, they generally review people who have been on benefits for more than two years.Where as field officers will check up on anybody.

THESE ARE YOUR RIGHTS.

Both field officers and hit squad members must identify themselves to you and must request permission to enter your home.You do **not** have to let them in, you do **not** have to speak to them now.You can tell them that you will call in at the social security office or you can tell them to call back another time.But be polite (it may save hassles).

NEVER say that you are sick of looking for work, and **NEVER** give the names of other people (friends, co-tenants, unemployed people), never give personal details (eg. how many bedrooms in your house, how many people live there, how you survive on the dole, etc.)-**IT'S NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS.**

YOU MAY GET CUT OFF

They'll want to know whether you're still actively seeking fulltime work (of course you are.)

If they cut you off benefits, you can talk to a review officer about it and get the decision reversed.If the Review Officer goes against you, you can appeal. Get the appeal form (they **have** to give you one if you ask for it) and bring it to We can help.

The hit squads are only the tip of the iceberg.All unemployed people as well as pensioners are being systematically harased.New measures introduced on November 1st include:

* All dole recipiants must be registered with the CES at all times.Previously, long-term unemployed were lapsed from the CES register if they hadn't used the service for a while. Under the new system, being lapsed from the CES rolls results in loss of the dole.
* Beneficiaries must lodge their form on the day stated on their form, or on the following day failure to do so will result in automatic termination of benefits.
* If two people cease to be in a married or de facto relationship, but continue to live in the same home for more than six months, they will then be treated as if their relationship has recommenced.
* A person leaving full-time education will not be eligible for unemployment benefit until 6 weeks after they leave the course.If they are under 21, single and have no dependants, this waiting period will be 13 weeks.

MORE CHANGES

Other new measures include regular interrogations of people on supporting parents' widows' and other pensions.

Supporting parents' and widows' pensioners are required to undergo three-mothly reviews, which include inquiries about their personal lives.Late return of these forms can also result in suspension of benefits.

Being on any benefit means having to prove everything you say all the time.You have to produce proof that you are who you say you are, proof that you are on benefits, proof that you are really looking for work, proof that you really need money.It's a pretty humiliating process and it's important not to let it get you down.It's not your fault that there are no jobs around.It's not your fault that you are poor - the benefits are a right not a privilege.Don't feel put down and don't let them put you down.Coming into U.W.U being part of an organisation is a good way to survive the welfare system.

We would like to thank the following for helping to keep this child hungry

Sainsbury's.

Lloyds Bank

UNILEVER

ROLLS ROYCE

Ford

Shell

ICI

THORN EMI

BARCLAYS

Midland The Listening Bank

NatWest The Action Bank

STARVE THE WORLD MAKE MILLIONS

"Hunger" is a registered product of multinational corporations, operating in conjunction with all governments.

LABOUR COUNCIL ATTACK HOMELESS

LONDON SQUATTERS RESIST

The last six months or so have seen a spate of mindless evictions in Lambeth and Hackney.

numerous homeless people have been kicked out of their homes onto the streets simply because they've had the 'nerve' to take the problem of getting somewhere to live into their own hands, and out of the bureaucratic clutches of the local councils. The council's mentality seems to be 'get rid of the squatters who are the basic problem and *then* think about what we're going to do with the properties'. After the evictions, the toilets and sinks, etc., are smashed up, and then the house or flat is left empty, normally for at least six months, or more. This is Labour's 'solution to the housing crisis'!

If you think that's crazy, Hackney Council have spent over £1,000,000 in the last year on 'security screens' (steel doors to me and you) to prevent homeless people from living in the houses and flats that the council have neglected to put to use.

Needless to say, the squatters are not taking this lying down. In Lambeth, evictions have been resisted using direct action such as: barricading doors and windows and attacking baillffs and housing officers with buckets of piss, fireworks, paintbombs, etc. When the bailiffs have bothered to return after such humiliation with reinforcements in the form of cops, after having smashed down front doors and windows with sledgehammers, they have found no-one in the premises, creating a bad atmosphere between the bailiffs and cops, the latter believing that the bailiffs have been wasting their time - not a bad situation at all! It seems now that a lot of bailiffs are scared shitless of evicting squats, as they know that every now and again they will come under heavy fire from those people who are pissed off with being kicked out of the houses that have been disregarded by the council, that they have turned into their homes.

At present, Hackney Council have 1127 empty habitable properties, which they could use now to house the 785 families that they have on their waiting lists. The solution is obvious isn't it? Evict 120 flats which are currently being lived in by otherwise homeless people to make room for these bed and breakfast families. Remember at school when you were taught that 2 + 2 = 5 ??? Of course, you know what the council is going to argue - 'these undesirable squatters are stopping genuine homeless people from getting a home for themselves'. We know that this is not the case, as do most people who stop to think about the situation for a moment. The truth is that Hackney council is playing one underprivileged group against another to try and distract people away from the fact they are the people directly and ultimately responsible for the mess that a lot of people are currently in.

Last year, Hackney Council evicted two blocks of flats which had a high proportion of squatted flats. The first block was evicted a day earlier than the date that the squatters were told via the usual County Court Interim Reports (called a D777 - I think). As a result of this the squatters' posessions were thrown down to the ground from the balconies, destroying a lot of people's personal posessions. When the squatters complained to the courts about this, they were told that it 'was a mistake'. The following day, the second block was evicted by the same 'day-early' method, despite assurances that the evictions would be carried out according to the original schedules.

This is the sort of shit that the Hackney squatters (and others) have had to put up with, for the right to have a secure roof over their heads. It came as no suprise that the (now homeless) people of Hackney decided to go on the offensive against the so-called 'socialist' Hackney Council. As the squatters rightly say, *'Hackney Council - Working for themselves'.*

Several occupations of the town hall soon followed as a protest against such treacherous tactics against their 'own people' (sic).

In Lambeth, an occupation of Linda Bellos' office took place at the town hall in Brixton as the final act in the 'Week of Action Against Homelessness' that took place between the dates of 22nd - 29th January, including pickets of estate agents, squatters advice outside the housing office, and the resisting of evictions. (In Hackney the windows of 20 estate agents were bricked in).

The reason for the occupation was that the council had evicted homeless people from their homes, smashed them up and then left them to rot. During the occupation, council workers within Bellos' office ripped phones out of their sockets and tried to physically intimidate us so that we would not be able to inform the local press and radio stations that we were there and why we had gone there. Strangely enough, the only person injured during the 45 minute occupation was Linda Bellos herself when the police kicked the doors down to get past our hastily erected barricades made out of filing cabinets. One of the doors flew into her face at which point she cried out 'It's me!' You could tell from the look on the cop's face that he couldn't have cared less who it was! Ironically, in an interview in a local newspaper, Bellos said that she deplored the squatters' 'macho use of violence to put across their grievances'! (NB. Linda Bellos is appearing on 'New Faces' next week as a stand up commedienne).

On to more recent events. At the last Hackney Council meeting, there were representative delegations from an Afro-Carribean group who have been campaigning for years for Hackney Council to give them a grant to set up an Afro-Carribean Youth Centre; Hackney Housing Action Group about evictions (*see later on in this article)* ; and a delegation from a local Lesbian group, hoping to get support from Hackney Council against Clause 28 of the new Local Government Bill that is currently passing through Parliament.

The spokesman for the Afro-Carribean group received a good response from the 40+ group of squatters in the public gallery (who only managed to get in after a tedious, drawn out 'confrontation' with the cops and security guards), especially when he warned that if the centre wasn't agreed upon that the council was 'playing with fire'.

It was then the turn of the delegate from the Hackney Housing Action Group. The arguments he put forward to the council as to why they should not evict the squatters were so strong that the councillors had no answers for them, although they did try: 'You know that if more than 15% of all properties on an estate are not occupied by tenants then private speculators then have the right to buy the estate and become the new landlord?' (Loose translation). The universal response to this was 'give us tenancies then!' Suprise, suprise, the councillor sat down and shut up. When the head of the housing department, Brynley Heavens, was asked, 'Where do we go?' after the evictions, he had absolutely fuck all to say. After the recess called as a result of all the noise the squatters were making, the local lesbian group put forward a delegation of five women, speaking against the introduction of clause 28, hoping that the council would come out (sorry) against it. As it was, the council passed a resolution that said that they were against clause 28 'in principle'. It turned out that not one of the delegations received the support that it hoped to get from the council. By this time, the squatters were starting to get a bit pissed off, and after about half an hour of the Labour councillors wanking themselves stupid over how great ILEA was, the squatters decided to storm the council chambers from the public gallery. The immediate target was good old Brynley Heavens. He was quickly surrounded by angry squatters and had to be taken away by the cops for his own protection. There were no arrests.

The reason for this confrontation is the eviction of 100+ squats in the Stamford Hill Estate, North London on Monday 7th March. After the crap that was meted out in '87 during the evictions *(see earlier in article)* the squatters have decided that enough is enough and that they will not take any more shit from Hackney Council. From council documents obtained by the squatters it appears that 100 bailiffs and 250 cops are to be used over a 5 day period to clear the estate of squatters once and for all. (The cost of cops alone is estimated to be in the region of £220,000. It would take Hackney Council 14 months to get this money back in rent if they managed to fill every flat that they evict and charge £30 per flat a week - let alone the steel doors, bailiffs, etc.).

There was a time when this would have gone down well with tenants when the typical stereotype of a squatter was a drug-crazed dirty scruffy punk. More and more people are realising that this is not the case; that most squatters are working class people who simply can not afford to get private accommodation and are not eligible for council housing - and anyway the council waiting lists are closed.

On the Stamford hill estate there is a lot of grass roots support (2 squatters are members of the tenants association!). The tenants have seen too many good neighbours evicted by a council that has its head in the clouds instead of the real world. Have you ever tried borrowing a cup of sugar from plywood and steel doors?

By the time you read this, the eviction will probably have taken place - and will probably have been successful - I hope that I'm wrong. See the next issue of *Black Flag* for the outcome.

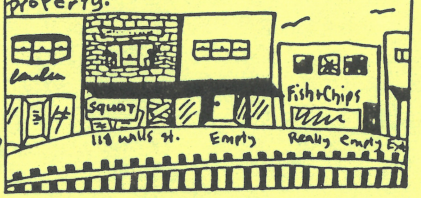
A lot of support for the squatters has been gained from both tenants and council workers - The local union has said that it will discipline any member who is involved in the actual eviction of squatters. It appears that the only people who don't realise the truth about the housing crisis in London are the people who actually administer it. The sooner that all working class people organise around such basic issues as housing the better off we'll be. The time is right for us to start taking back what is rightfully ours - we have the collective strength to do it.

STOP PRESS: Since the above article was written, there have been a number of further incidents on the Stamford Hill estate in North London. On Monday 7th March, the entrances to the estate were barricaded using skips and cars, one of which was set on fire, in response to the cops and bailiffs turning up at 4am to carry out the eviction. Because of this the estate became a no-go area for the cops until Wednesday 9th. On Tuesday, Hackney Council agreed to go into discussions with the squatters over the possibility of rehousing them in high-rise flats unsuitable for families, the elderly and disabled. The meeting was arranged for Wednesday morning at 10am. Guess who actually arrived at 10am for 'discussions'? The cops and bailiffs! They then started to carry out the evictions. As there were 500 cops compared to about 100 squatters, the squatters decided to leave the estate peacefully, with only two people being arrested, both later released on charges of obstruction. No squatters were allowed back onto the estate, and the cops have decided to set up a temporary police station there for the next few weeks at least so as to prevent the flats from being resquatted.

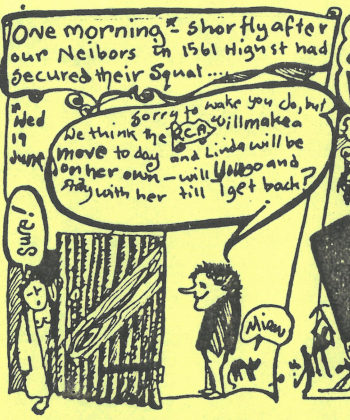
The setting is familiar carefully trimmed lawns - Hedges + ferns, 1948's So calm, so placid, so Bored. But something Happened, not Long ago Something so Remarkable it changed the lives of those who knew the Truth! This Then is:

SQUATTING in the Suburbs or the GLEN IRIS story

We were squatting in the path of a freeway no-one seemed to want. The freeway was at least 4 months from needing our house we disturbed no-one - the house next door on the right being empty and the house to the Left being Noisier than us. Friends were squatting around the corner in another Road Construction Authority property.

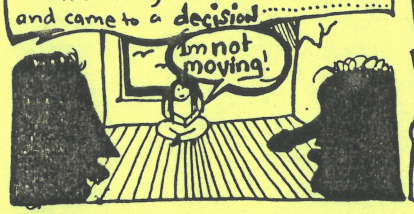


One morning - shortly after our Neibors in 1561 High st had secured their Squat...

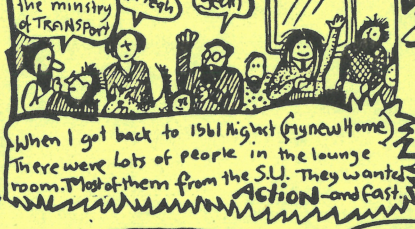

Wed 19 June
Sorry to wake you Jo, but We think the RCA will make a move today and Linda will be on her own - will You go and stay with her till I get back?
Sure!
Miaow

He was wrong in one important detail - The RCA Move on MY HOUSE

David was arrested when he went back inside our house after the RCA kicked him out. I helped the RCA men Pack up our belongings - going in and out several times - and looked for our Poor Cats. When All our things had been Removed I went into our favourite room and sat down. I thought about a lot of things and came to a decision.....



So I was arrested too. Being Questioned - not answering, being Put in the lock up, being Photographed and Fingerprinted, going to court next morning - being Fined $100 each. all seemed like a bad dream. so I won't go into it in detail - ugh!



When I got back to 1561 High st (my new Home) There were lots of people in the lounge room. Most of them from the S.U. They wanted ACTION - and fast.

So they stormed minister Mr Roper's office and made demands - they were agreed to.

MEANWHILE, the R.C.A. TRASHED our house, 118

Meetings were arranged between the Ministry of Housing the R.C.A. and the squatters union. We discovered that we don't speak the same language

THEY GAVE US THE Assurance, though, that there would be no Evictions. So David and I squatted a house in Thornbury Crescent owned by the R.C.A. It was a very Posh house with pink Marble every where and Rose carpeting.

WE WERE Evicted the Next day.

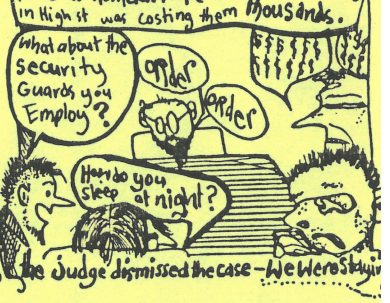
At the next meeting with the MOH and RCA we made demands that David + My fines be payed, that the Empty RCA Houses be made Known + Available for short life housing and that the Vandalism of Empty houses be stopped. We also asked why we were evicted and not Negotiated with. They didn't say "NO" to our demands but tried to Water them down and get around them - also they said they did negotiate - they told Western Regional Housing Group that we were going - Thats Negotiation? So we'd had ENOUGH. WE WALKED OUT They didn't weep with Remorse!

Some Angry + Reckless Individuals took it upon themselves to do some Direct Action on RCA Vehicles one Night

David and My Fines were drawing Near by this time and we recalled a Certain Mr Jim Stevenson. Ministerial advisor to Mr TOM Roper promising, if the worst come to the worst, to Pay them himself! So We Rang him up.

The Squatters Union decided to join forces with the Gardeners Creek Action Group in some decisive Action, even though they were all very Middle class in their Values and had some FUNNY Ideas. Eg. Squatting Half demolished Houses. (they didn't like the Proposed FREEWAY for Environmental reasons Mostly) Unfortunately we haven't quite Co-ordinated this great and World shattering Action Yet. We still haven't paid our $100 fines yet either, let them find me.

When the 60 days was almost over the RCA took us to the residential tenancies Trib. their hardship as they saw it, was greater than ours as homeless people because our being in High st was costing them thousands.

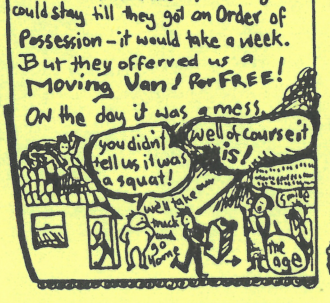


The Judge dismissed the case - We were Stuyin

Some Liberal Members came to get some Political mileage out of our plight. He brought his own Media People.

you are illegally occupying this if it was up to me, I'd come down with the cops and help them kick you out on the
Me - the minister responsible for housing
Is this guy for Real?
Woof?

By the time the 60 days was up, it was only 4 days and me left in the house. When they banged on the door we stalled them, knowing we could stay till they got an Order of Possession - it would take a week. But they offered us a Moving Van! For FREE!



THEY trashed that House that Night. It was demolished in a few days and Left a Pile of Rubble for MONTHS. 27th August.

As far as I am CONCERNED, for Beurocratic Bungling, boxed in "Im only doing my Job" mentality and PURE spite you can't go past the RCA! I won't be squatting any more of their property Just yet but something should be done about these bastards, and all others who try to Wreck your Life. Organize with others Activate for the Kind of Life you Want. If We don't do it Who will? Any way, That was the Glen Iris story. Story's like it go on every day - but this one happened to me so I feel qualified to write and draw about it. THE END

06-85

Dear Housing or Community Group,

Being a small inner city and Northern suburb based group, the Squatters Union's inability to provide concrete information relating to other regions has been a constant problem for us.

The info. from the survey will hopefully help to overcome this, if you wish to add anything to it please feel free...

---

* What is your groups address and contact number?
*Do you know of any sympathetic plumbers, electricians, removalists in your area?
How much do tbey cost and what's their phone number?
Also:Do you have access to any utes etc. for moving people or access to storage space that you'd make available to local squatters.

* What emergency aid facillities are there in your area?
eg. for food vouchers,cash relief or material aid[furniture etc.]

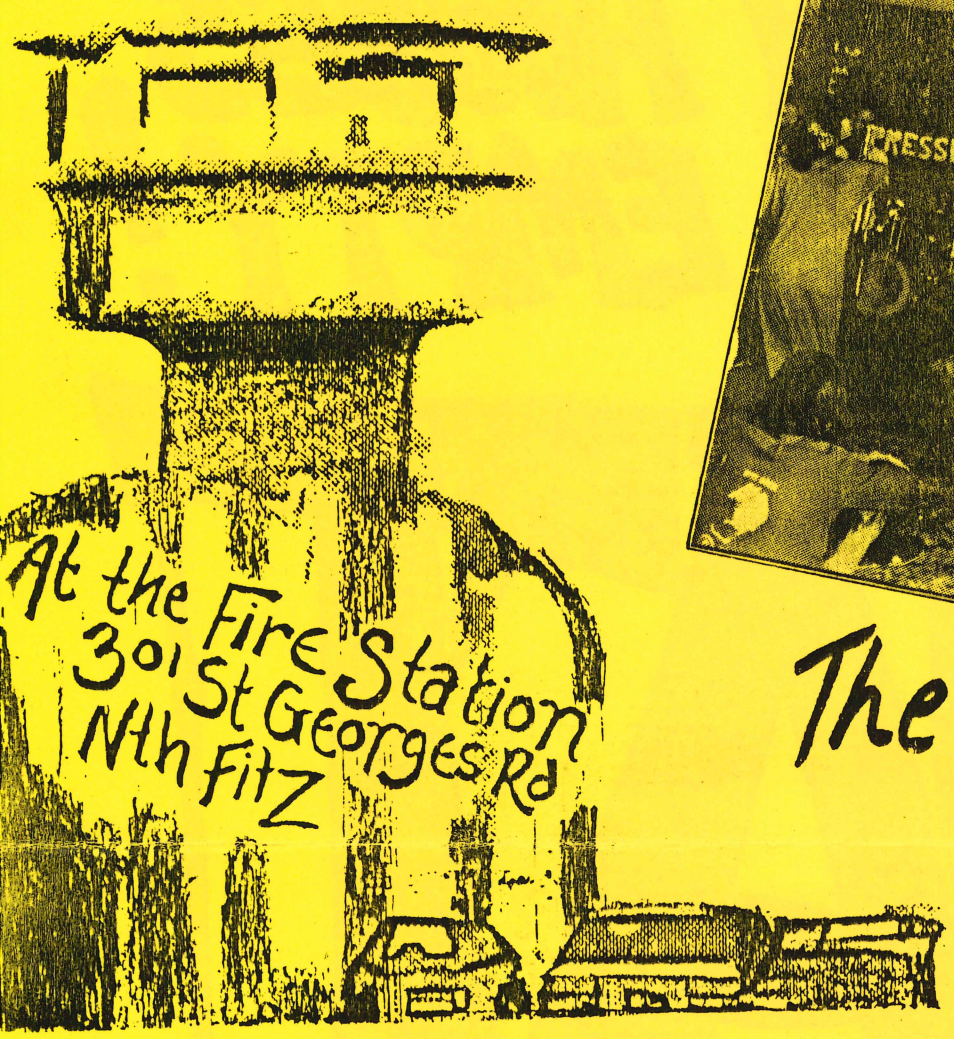
* Is your group willing to:
-provide phone access for squatters to call us up or for the SUV in emergencies[eg. evictions.
-Provide access for a temporary or permanent CB base
-Keep a stash of How to Squat Phamphlets and a list of local MT homes [updated by us] - this is so squatters in Outer suburban areas don't have to come into North Fizroy....
-Have your office given out as a Squatters Info Center including as a distribution point for Squat it.
-provide meeting space if a local squatters mutual aid group were to form in your area.
-provide the SUV with paper,stationery....
-make people aware of the possibility of squatting and suggest that they contact us for more info or if they are interested in a local mutual aid group.
-Conduct a 'Weedwatch' campaign[to encorage people to dob in MTs in their area] via a press release in your local paper and or a graffitti,poster and sticker campaign.
-Support a DSS based soup kitchen action in your area.

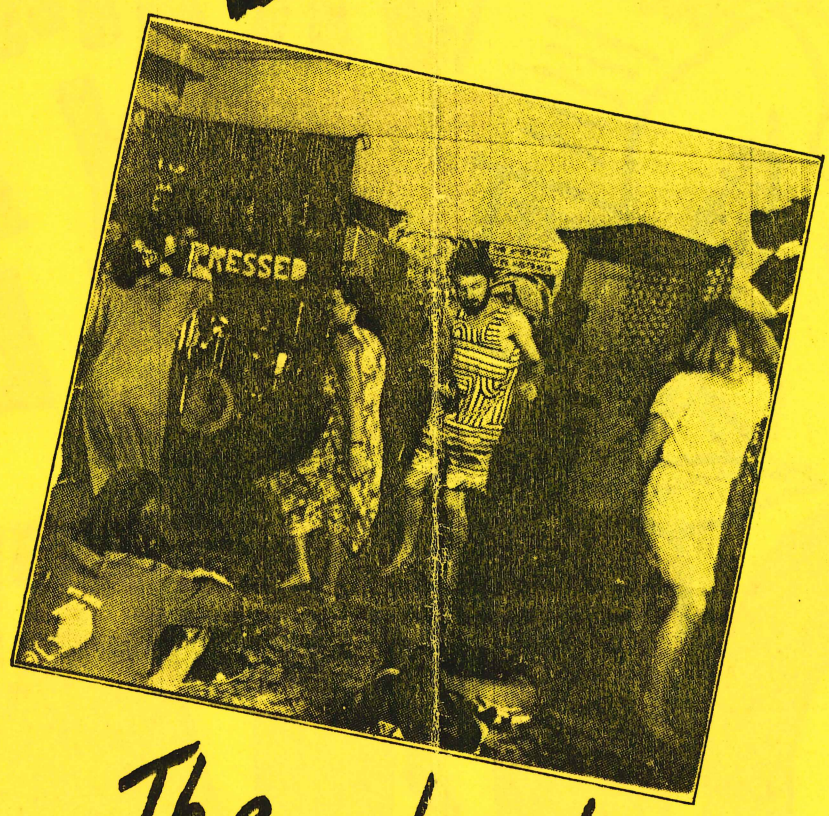
For more info or clarification, give us a ring on 481 8097, the union may be able to provide a speker at your meeting if you need to discuss things furtther,

In Solidarity,

The Squatters Union of Victoria.

Join the Social Insecurity Party...





The beat goes on.... and on.....

On the 28th and 29th of January the Fire Station was moving and grooving to the sound of a great variety of Melbourne bands. The Squatters Union and the Unemployed Workers Union organized The Social Insecurity Party as a free event to bring unemployed people together and to highten awarness of the building and what it stands for.

The weekend started with a top of 37°C . Waterfights begun before anything else did. An indoor and outdoor stage were rigged up. When one act was finished , the other was set up and ready to go. Constant entertainment. And food was being cooked all the while.

It all started with the OXO CUBANS playing on neither of the stages but the outdoor armchairs. They were followed by MAJUBA who started the crowd dancing to their African rythms. During their performance someone stole all the donation money - $70.00. There was nothing we could do but curse the bastard / bitch with a slow death ... ..soon.

The dancers to Majuba were completly dehydrated by the end of their energetic set . Two womyn washed themselves down with water only to be the butt of microphoned jokes by RICKY VENGENANCE . Sexist jokes being the only improvisition he seemed capable of, then HURRICANE HEARNE & THE TORNADOES followed.

The crowd was increasing fast . The sun's strong heat seemed to stone everyone especially the drinkers. A relaxed atmosphere but by no means boring or slow.

LITTLE SISTERS and ROBZEL, both womyn's bands, played on the outside stage. They were much appreciated and enjoyed by the predominently womyn audience who gathered around.

As darkness fell the electricity supply burnt out. J. PINEAPPLE sung the blues while 15 drunk electricians managed to fix the equipment to a second board on the second floor . The beat went on , while a pissed farthead tried to conquer the 25 meter watch tower . A predictable event.

ITCH TO SCRATCH rapped on the rhythmic vibes and were followed by INSYTE. Time was sweating past fast and we had slipped off schedule. FUZZ 'P! PUNK played a short and sharp set. Then came NO ... slamdancing my chances of a safe future away . NO thrashed out more numbers as the pigs oinked and grunted in the corner. They had come in a vain attempt to halt the festival , and were ignored as they always should be.

The ten hour marathon came to a close in a flash.

For obvious reasons it was more relaxed on the Sunday. The crowd's stamina increased as the hours passed.

TEDDY TURNER AND THE BUNSEN BURNERS were followed by BIG BULLETS ON WHEELS, the latter being heavy jazz. JIMMY THE HUMAN , a fair dinkum wally hopped on the outside stage.. His songs and jokes were hard to stomach.

Food is served and the melted cooks are hardly thanked while everyone scoffed their faces.

THE CROWS performed theatre before GNARNAYARRAWE WAITAIRE & INDIBUNJI SCHOOL OF DANCE went on stage. A womyn talked of aboriginal male customs while Gnarnayarrawe danced with the school and played the didgeridoo..

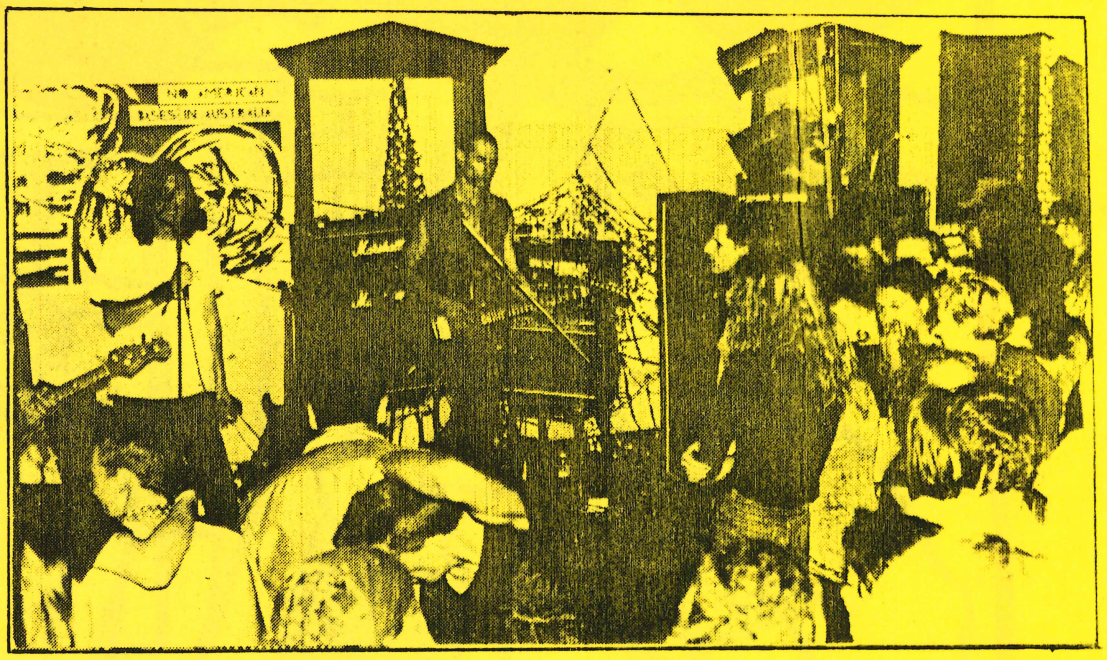
MAXWELL NEMADZIUHANANI - the Aust. representative of the Pan African Congress charged with serious crimes against the Sth African diplomats - made a speech declaring his innocence and asking for support. The reality he put across was very desperate.

Then came the outrageouse MOTOR JOCKEYS A wild and wacky cover band. Then came the Latin Americanish DAVROS. Lots of percussion plus a sitar and more played confidently. They sounded brilliant .

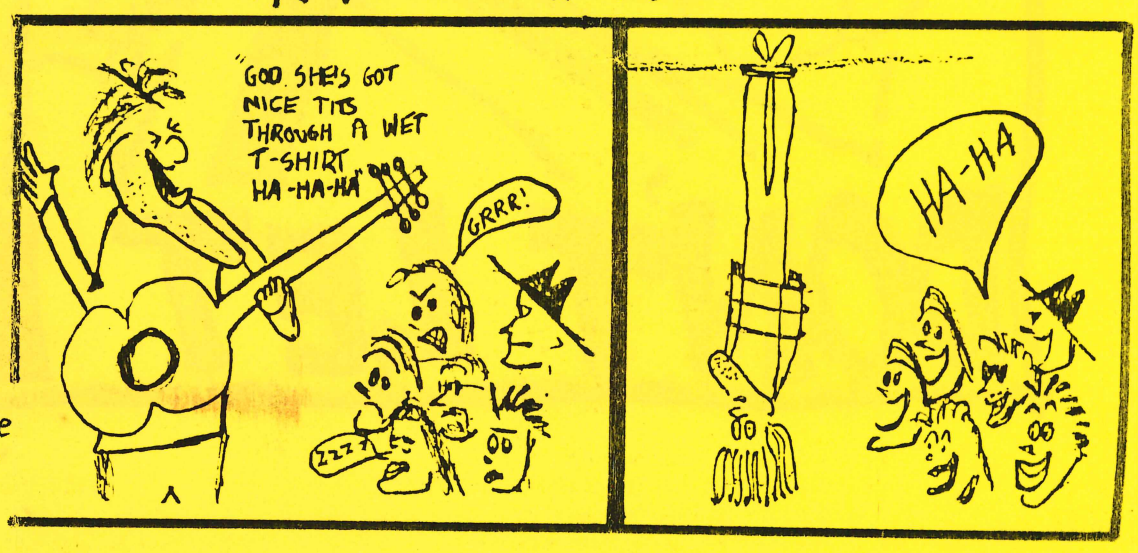
Yes yuppies , deros , trendies , dykes gays , hardcore and wimps all were moving to the sound of DAVROS.

The two former bands were a hard act to follow and IAN PAULIN and THE MUDMEN couldn't capture the same atmosphere .The climax of the night was behind them. ROBERT TRIMBOLES HAT got people bopping and hopping again and they ended the festival with a tight finale.

All the partying , loud music , dancing ,eating and general boogying had left the organizers as dead lumps of meat . With very sleshed brains they managed to figure out that $1385.00 had been collected in donations. Although only $442.00 was profit the festival had been a raging success. The U.W.U and the S.U. managed to create an energetic and warm atmosphere , without any help from the ordinary money grabbing venues. What a brilliant bunch of human beings. Surely their effort is to be admired and their example followed.



REVENGE ON RICKY



DON'T BE HOMELESS WHEN HOUSES ARE EMPTY!

SQUAT

WAL '38

DON'T LET HOUSES ROT!

253
WELLINGTON
ST
COLLINGWOOD

BANDS!

FOOD!

-THURS-
-MARCH-
-30TH-
INSIGHT

ENTRY IS FREE!

PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED - DONATIONS ACCEPTED

PEDRO PICO PICO VENA
LETS GET SERIOUS
WE'VE GOT TO BREAK THE DOOR DOWN
HERE WE GO
DO IT YOURSELF COZ THEY
OKUPACION!!
WONT GIVE YA A KEY
COMO NO NOS DAN CASAS LAS OKUPAMOS
WHAT'S THIS BOX. GOT IN IT ITS HE MAN
Provisions
CRASS, FLUX, MDC RUDIMENTARY PENIS GIRLS, DEPRESSION ETC ETC ETC
NATO ARMY ETC
SHIT MAN YOU'VE COME WELL PREPARED
JUST ENOUGH FOR UNO
All one thought it was my flute
AT LEAST SOMEONE WANTS ME
SQUAT!
SHIT THE COPPERS
ALREADY
THAT QUICK
Yeah you'll see how soon the violence starts
YOU'RE A DANGER, DEFEND YOURSELF!

// There have been occupations in Madrid for a long time. Thousands of homes have been occupied for years and not always as individual efforts - at certain times there seemed to be a 'movement' happening (like in the 70's in a few peripheral suburbs)- also, unions and political groups have squatted buildings so they can have premises to operate from.

One of the concrete examples of direct action by groups in Madrid has been the occupation (squatting) of houses.

Aware of the huge problem of living space in this city and the efforts made by all political parties to hide this problem, and given the absolute necessity of having somewhere to live and carry out our day to day activities (including the struggle against the system), we set about squatting houses. The reason why we have been totally and brutally repressed in these activities can be explained as follows:

(1) The housing crisis in Madrid - more than 2,000 families live in flats squatted in "silence". In the working class suburbs there are more than 200,000 vacant houses and other premises and a corresponding amount of young people (and not so young people) on the streets. Permitting one squat could start a full-on movement of squatters. As regards this - we are "shitting on Gods head."

(2) The other reason goes deeper. The occupations themselves are not dangerous (not even in Germany or England), the problem is that they question the concept of private property - squatters don't respect it and futhermore they maintain that the needs of individuals are more important than the interests of the rich and powerful. Futhermore, given that the occupations are planned as autonomous actions, in which the government or political parties don't participate, this makes it a struggle that can't be co-opted by the powers that be and their response is therefore repression, no matter how much they try and pretty it up and modify it with attempts at democracy.

The occupations that we are organising are not only the struggle for premises, they're a step in the direction of self-management and organisation in the struggle against the aggressions of the state and the money game it is based on. They know that this is dangerous.

Their politics for youth - police/compulsory army service/heroin/unemployment is the exact opposite, and tries to isolate & immobilise us, so they've got us where they want us.

Right now, the occupations are the most successful arm of the small autonomous movement here in Madrid - given that a small, but growing, amount of people and even less economic resources are invovled. Concrete results have been gained.

The issue of housing is being discussed amongst the youth and is becoming a political issue, many people and collectives that were functioning in relative isolation have united to struggle together, favourable feelings towards understanding of the occupations is growing. We've had access to mass media (mainly radio) and have been able to explain our position and fuck up the PSOE (Spanish version of the ALP and in power at the moment) and the rest of Madrid's fascists a bit. (check out the Mayor making his public proclamation while being pelted with eggs)

Even if we never manage to consolidate one premises, there'll always be reason to struggle using Direct Action. So health, energy and social revolution - Shitting on Gods head. //

extract from Spanish Squatting Mag.

Demo - Heroin = Police, Less repression, more Kulture, Squat Resist.

MY OPINION

The headline reads "more than 1,000 assaults on vacant premises during the last 8 years". The assailants have not always been "squatters", there have also been some needy families. Easy to see that the same bullshit goes down on the other side of the globe - "assaults, assailants, oh yes, and some of them were actually needy, families not your average scumbag squatter.." on the same page we read that in the province of Madrid there are 1,336,767 houses, 131,785 secondary residences (people with 2 houses) and 242,099 empty houses and flats.

NB: Should add here that the sort of housing commission flats we have here are the main sort of housing in Madrid, most big cities in Spain for that matter. Our concept of single houses with a yard and driveway is pretty rare over there unless you're a rich person.

So you often get the situation where a whole block of flats is empty and a mass occupation can take place and where the occupiers can force the housing commission (INV) to buy the flats and make the occupation legal. Once owned by the INV, not paying the rent becomes a problem between the occupants (often unemployed and what's more without receiving any social security payments) and the beauracrats - a sort of you can't get blood out of a stone situation and evictions can be stalled.

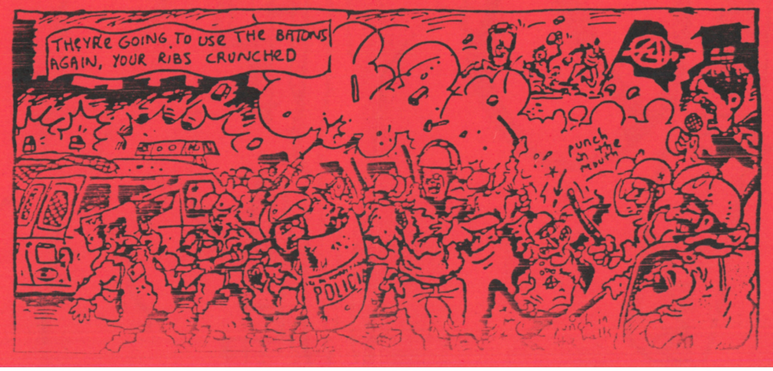
Naturally, once having given yourself over to the beauracracy, prepare for the hassle and interminable paperwork and negotiations.

30 kilometres from Barcelona there's a group of flats comprising nearly 250 individual flats and a community centre, and about 2,500 occupants. These have been squatted for over 8 years and negotiations have just finished - the flats are now council run. However, many of the original occupiers have left, some of whom had the monumental cheek of selling their flats to new residents. It's a weird situation! Lots of full-on collective activity has gone on there, rosters for cleaning, elected reps, people paying a contribution to keep the electricity on in the stairs and elevators - side by side with people using flats as private property, people selling smack and other non-collective activities.

The crisis situation in Spain regards housing and unemployment has often led to situations such as this one. The squatters of Madrid are making a concerted effort to change this situation, so you get things like the new word 'okupacion' which means occupation but the new spelling reclaims the word and gives it a new power (much like 'womin power'). Symbols like the broken hypodermic and making the connection between the cop/government controlled heroin supply and the deadly apathy of heaps of people faced with a bleak future of no jobs (not even black market ones), no dole forced to stay with parents in overcrowded conditions, compulsory military service for males over 20, cheap smack and alcohol, a TV in every home, polution like you wouldn't believe (it's a long way between forests).

Faced with that and over 200,000 empty houses in Madrid, not to mention the growing number of empty villages all around Spain as the centralisation forces push more and more people into the already overcrowded cities, it seems logical to squat. And the Establishment reaction is familiar to Melb (and all squatters) - brutal police intervention, endless beauracratic bullshit, lies, police plants and agitators, court appearances, impossible fines and so on.

Translators review.



VERY SOON THIS IMAGE WILL BE FAMILIAR
FREE JAILED SQUATTERS
AN EVICTION? ANOTHER -OCCUPATION
SHIT, hippies punks heavies UNITED!? WHATS HAPPENED?
NOTHING THE COPS RAIDED A HEAVY BAR BY MISTAKE
ITS THE ONLY THING THATS UNITED ALL THE TRIBES AT ONCE